

**Admission Appeal Defense Statement
Secondary School – The Victory Academy
Admission Appeal for Year 7 in September 2024**

Published Admission Number: 210
Number of Applications received: 210
How many places were offered on national offer day: 210

Places Offered – (Please catalog oversubscription criteria)	Numbers
EHCP	0
Looked After	3
Sibling	68
TSAT Primary School	12
Children of Staff	1
Medical	0
Distance	126
Local Authority Allocation	0
Total number of pupils offered a place;	210

Distance of last child allocated a place (N/A if not applicable);	
The details of the last children allocated are:	
Band 1	5,327.71 metres
Band 2	3,061.94 metres
Band 3	5,538.76 metres
Band 4	5,676.07 metres
Band 5	4,664.87 metres
Band 6	1,355.57 metres

<p>Currently (2023/2024) in each year group the numbers are as follows 2024;</p> <p><i>Year 7 – 210/210, Year 8 – 210/210, Year 9 – 210/210, Year 10 – 217/240, Year 11 – 238/240</i></p> <p>The school cannot admit more than 210 students into Year 7 for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school considers that going beyond this figure would be detrimental to the education of others and would compromise the efficient use of resources. A figure of 210 would give 7 classes of at least 30-31 (with the exception of DT where for safety reasons we have classes of no more than 19 students) so any more than this would make accommodating students in classes highly challenging. Without additional buildings the school cannot accommodate further increases in its PAN. • The school had a phased building plan to support its growing roll, but COVID 19 and reduced funding from Medway Council has delayed proposed building
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work. Therefore, there is no additional space internally or external additional builds planned for September 23/24 intake.

- The school already has staggered entry to our canteen and servery at lunch times for students given the limited size of hall/canteen area and servery and more students would further add to the already stretched capacity or limit the offer of hot meals available for our students, including a high percentage of students who qualify for free school meals that need to be provided.
- As part of the phased growth plan for the school, the school considered further internal reconfiguration works to remove staff and social areas to create more classroom spaces and expand the number of subject specialist room such as science labs. This is so the school can accommodate its rapidly growing 6th form to reach a PAN of 150 per year group. However, without additional funding to complete the works, which is not yet available, the school cannot progress these plans further.
- The school had plans to expand its specialist teaching spaces in science by converting classrooms to lab space, but this is now having to be a phased approach over several years due to funding.
- Specialist spaces such as science labs and DT workshops have a set number of fixed benches which cannot be increased. The design also provided for close supervision of the use of tools/equipment. We therefore cannot increase class sizes beyond our current maximum without compromising health and safety.
- The school is made up of a single square building with a courtyard in the centre. Newly built/converted classrooms have had to be constructed/renovated within the original footprint/building restrictions. This has resulted in a number of rooms including maths, humanities, some computer rooms, etc. failing to meet the space requirements of new build classrooms (49m² instead of the recommended minimum of 53m²). Space is very limited and the majority of these classrooms have been converted to fit 15 double desks for students and 1 teacher area/desk only. Therefore, we do not have sufficient space or furniture necessary to host over 30 in a class.
- IT classrooms have a maximum of 30 computers/desks in each and cannot accommodate additional power/data points without full rewiring which is a significant financial cost. One IT room is only equipped for 15 students, so has to be timetabled to support students and 6th form classes as necessary.
- At present we do not have enough Performing Arts and P.E. changing rooms and are already repurposing classrooms with blackout blinds to allow space for changing lessons. Admitting students above PAN increases numbers of students in changing rooms at once, which then means we would no longer be compliant with square footage per child health and safety recommendations set out by the association of P.E. It would also pose a challenge from a security perspective with several classes sharing spaces and leaving bags/personal possessions in a shared area.
- To accommodate PAN numbers in 7 and 12 in 2023/24, the school is considering which areas of the school could be repurposed for 6th form study areas, due to the existing 6th form area being insufficient to accommodate 300+. At present, the school is having to carefully timetable lessons in an attempt to minimize the number of supervised study periods or is considering sending 6th form students home for study periods to avoid overcrowding. We have increased the number of taught periods per A level to 10 periods a

fortnight from September 2022 in an effort to further reduce the number of students in personal study spaces.

- Accepting pupils above PAN would require revision of the school's curriculum model to increase the number of class sets in year 7 to accommodate more pupils. This would require additional classroom spaces which we do not have, and additional staff recruitment which would impact financial costings.
- Intake of pupils above 210 in year 7 impacts on school funding as funding for additional students is lagged and we therefore would not receive funding until 2024/25 academic year. This means we would be educating the student and incurring additional staffing and resourcing costs with no additional funding for year 7
- Additional students above agreed PAN impacts class sizes and subsequently adds to staff marking load, and staff stress and wellbeing.

In summary, whilst the School is sympathetic to the family's request for a place, it believes that the original decision not to offer a place was the correct one. This is in order that there is no prejudice to both the efficient use of resources and the education of the other children who have been allocated places.

Completed by: Mrs M Smith Headteacher Date: 01/03/2024